

Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING

Representatives from California and Nevada theater organizations attended the first Pacific Southwest regional meeting of the CTC in February. The meeting included a schedule of panel discussions and direct addresses by several notables in non-professional theatre.

Virtually every important phase of theatre work in the amateur theatre level was discussed. Dr. J. Fenton McKenna of San Francisco State College made the opening address after delegates had been welcomed by the Rev. James N. Brown, superintendent of schools of San Francisco's archdiocese, Sister M. Rose Emmanuel, president of the College of Holy Names and Joseph F. Rice, president of the Catholic Theatre Conference.

Later procedures in direction, problems in scene design and the values in acting were discussed. Following this Berkeley High School presented THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN under the direction of Florence Schwimley as representative of work in children's theatre. In the late afternoon Jack Morrison acted as chairman in a panel discussion of Organizing the Community Theatre. David Hunter of the San Francisco Municipal Theater

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IMPORTANT !

Deadline for photos and copy for the BULLETIN

JUNE 30 !

EAST-CENTRAL REGION EVENT

Echoes of the applause for the Play Festival of the Louisville Catholic Drama Council still lingered and Sister Patricia Ann, regional chairman, Virginia Emrich, the Guild's president and John Cambron were making plans for next fall. In spite of the competition of Derby Day in Louisville which caused acute problems in transportation, the recent Play Festival of the East Central Region was a huge success. Nazareth College of Louisville acted as the kind host for the two day event. All who participated and especially Miss Dirksmeyer who managed the Festival are deserving of our heartiest congratulations.

NORTH-CENTRAL REGION COLLEGE MEET

On May 20 and 21, Brother Philip of St. Mary's College, Winona, Minnesota, acted as host to the College directors of the North-Central Region with the assistance of Brother James in demonstrations and productions of two one-act plays. Sister Theophane of the College of St. Teresa was hostess to Sister guests.

Luncheon was served at St. Mary's followed by a business meeting presided over by Sister Charitas, chairman for the Region. At two o'clock Brother James gave a demonstration of projected scenery and a practical lesson in wig-making. Rev. Dominic Keller, St. John's University and Brothers Philip and James showed colored slides of their outstanding

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CATHOLIC THEATRE GUILD OF SAN FRANCISCO
ENJOYS PROUD ACHIEVEMENT

On May 18, 19 and 20 as their contribution to the San Francisco and State of California centennial celebration the Catholic Theatre Guild of San Francisco presented the challenging production of Gheon's THE MARRIAGE OF ST. FRANCIS. The original music composed specifically for the production was played by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

Lucille McGovern, Secretary for the Guild, writes:

"We were very fortunate in being able to marshal San Francisco's outstanding artistic talent in terms of direction, acting, sets, costume design and music. These talents, plus our drudgery, combined to effect a really fine production. The play was well received by the critics and it is felt generally that the Catholic Theatre Guild has made a definite contribution in advancing the religious and cultural standard of our community. The play requires a prodigious amount of study and imaginative direction. We were fortunate in that our director, M. Andre Ferrier, possesses these capabilities in abundance. The music is one of the most important elements of the drama. We used the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra to play the original music composed specifically for this show. In addition, we had a chorus of approximately 50 male and female voices. All these problems - in addition to securing the best acting talent available! In spite of the vast amount of work involved for all of us, we feel that we undertook a challenging production and may be proud of our achievement."

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURERS
AT FORDHAM SUMMER SEMINAR

Mr. Edgar L. Kloten, Chairman of the Theatre Department of Fordham University recently announced that the following outstanding members of the theatre world will be featured at the Summer Seminar of Theatre Practice: Ethel Waters, Ray Bolger, Stark Young, Percy MacKaye, Woodman Thompson, Walter Kerr, Maurice Valency, Horace MacMahon and Robert Garland.

SOUTHERN REGION FESTIVAL

Sister Mary Immaculate, Chairman of the Southern Region, had her efforts rewarded with the great success of the Southern Region Festival held at St. Michael's School, Wheeling, West Virginia.

Mr. Robert Otten, Director of Drama of Oglebay Institute who has in the last three years created a dramatic upsurge in Wheeling acted as Critic-Judge. Unfortunately, Mr. Otten has plans to move from the region in the near future.

Bravos to Sister Mary Immaculate for her work and may she have as much success in her plans for the new season.

PACIFIC NORTH-WEST
REGIONAL MEETING

On May 6 with the Oregon premiere of A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY the Pacific North-west Region held its second regional meeting at Central Catholic High School. Included in the program was a demonstration of acting and directing techniques by Mr. Richard Fair of Portland University using BOX AND COX as his example.

Each member present gave a report of their year's activities and plans for the future were discussed. These plans included the Portland Festival in November at St. Mary's Academy; the Spokane Festival at Holy Names College; one-act play festival for colleges at Portland University and plans for a benefit performance of St. Martin's LADY OF FATIMA in Portland next fall.

Congratulations to Father Juliano and the members of the Pacific North-west region for their successful past season and best wishes for bigger and better future successes.

REMEMBER . . .

to send pictures and reports of your productions for the BULLETIN!

CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT

Conn., West Hartford, St. Joseph College, TWELFTH NIGHT, Feb. 17, 18, arena staging, directed by Sister Maria Ancilla.

Illinois, River Forest, Rosary College, THE TROJAN WOMEN, May 13, 14, directed by Sister M. Gregory, O.P. Lisle, St. Procopius College, THE RIVALS, Apr. 16, 23, directed by and acting version by Rev. Mathias Kucera.

Iowa, Davenport, Immaculate Conception Academy, director - Sister Angelita, Freshman one-acts, May 12, 15, Senior Recitals in May; LADIES OF THE JURY, Apr. 21 - 23. Dubuque, Clarke College, OUR TOWN, Apr. 29, 30.

Kansas, Wichita, Mount Carmel Academy, THE YOUNG AND FAIR, Nov. 17.

Louisiana, Shreveport, The Catholic Drama League, CITY OF KINGS, Mar. 15-17, directed by Jos. Sullivan.

Mass., Watertown, Rosary Academy, MURDER IN A NUNNERY; THE GYPSY ROVER, assisted by the Boston College High School Boys, directed by Sister M. Leonard, O.P.

Weston, Regis College, SONG AT THE SCAFFOLD, April; MEDEA, outdoor production, May directed by Sister Ernesta.

Mich., Detroit, Immaculata High School, OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY, Apr. 22, 23.

Grand Rapids, Marywood Academy, LADY OF FATIMA, May 24-26, directed by Elizabeth Moeslein.

Minn., St. Joseph, College of Saint Benedict, SONG OF THE SCAFFOLD, April, directed by Sister Marcine, with Bonnie Colwell as Blanche.

Mankato, Loyola High School, CITY OF KINGS, Apr. 2.

Collegeville, St. John's University, BROTHER ORCHID, Nov. 25, 27; KING SAUL, March 12, 13; RICHELIEU, Apr. 30, May 1.

Winona, College of St. Teresa, SONG AT THE SCAFFOLD, Mar. 31, Apr. 1, directed by Donald J. Waters.

Missouri, St. Louis, St. Louis University, SONG AT THE SCAFFOLD, March; HOME-COMIN', an original musical.

New Jersey, Jersey City, MACBETH, St. Peters College

Gothic Players of Sacred Heart Parish, THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS DAUGHTER, directed by Charles S. Warren.

Newark, CYO, one-act plays, May 2, 3.

New York, Buffalo, Rosary Hill College, SONG AT THE SCAFFOLD, March.

New York City, Fordham University Theatre, SAM EGO'S HOUSE, Apr. 27-30, May 4-8, directed by Wm. Riva, arena staging.

Carroll Club, MURDER IN A NUNNERY, revival June 13.

BLACKFRIARS' GUILD, ARMOR OF LIGHT, by Urban Nagle, O.P., staged by Dennis Gurney, sets by Greg Kayne.

Staten Island, Notre Dame Academy, LIFE WITH MOTHER, Apr. 20, 21.

Tarrytown, Marymount College, CYRANO DE BERGERAC, March 28, 29, Anthony Messuri directed.

Ohio, Dayton, Blackfriars' Guild, SEVEN SISTERS, May 19-21.

St. Martin, School of Brown County Ursulines, THE CLOWN WHO RAN AWAY, Directed by Sister Miriam.

Oregon, The Central Players, A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY, May 7, 8.

Utah, Salt Lake City, St. Mary of the Wasatch Academy, THE MISER, Apr. 25.

Catholic Drama Associates, TIDINGS BROUGHT TO MARY, March 31.

District of Columbia, Washington, Catholic University, LUCKY DAY, original musical, book and lyrics by Leo Brady, score by Ed Cashman, Staged by Father Hartke.

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CATHOLIC HOUR BROADCAST

NBC - 6 to 6:30 p.m., June 18, GOD IN THE THEATRE, Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R.
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NEW ARRIVALS

PINOCCHIO - Complete songs, music and story, the play is based on the world-famous legend. Adaptations and lyrics by Yasha Frank; music by Edison Von Ottenfield and Armando Loredo. Originally produced with great success by the Federal Theatre Project. Publ. Edw. B. Marks Music Corp., RCA Bldg., Radio City, N.Y. Amateur performance requirements for performance in restricted areas: ONE performance permitted with the purchase of 20 copies and the payment of \$5.00 in advance. Copies 60¢. All additional performances \$10.00. 3 Acts, each containing 3 scenes. Songs include "Pinocchio" "Little Wooden Head," "Dance of the Pretty Puppet," "Incidental Music for Guardian Angel," "Cat and Fox," "The Jolly Coachman Song" and "Lullaby." Cast includes: Geppetto, the old carpenter; Pepito, a young father; Pinocchio, school children, beggar women, Blue-haired Fairy Queen, the Cat and Fox, Jolly Coachman, the Pretty Puppet, Ringmaster, Clowns and Circus performers, the Whale, Undersea Fish, Town Folks, etc. Script contains interesting illustrations by Perry Watkins. Also Glossary with Production Notes.

The PRINCE WHO WAS A PIPER, one-act play by Harold Brighouse, 5 males, 8 females plus m & f extras. Setting: a Palace Garden. Can be produced outdoors and by an all female cast if desired. Royalty \$10.00 per performance. Publ. Samuel French.

THE NATIVITY, a play with music founded on old French songs. Publ. E. C. Schirmer Music Co., written by Lorraine d'Oremieulx Warner and Margaret Higginson Barney. Nine Old French songs strung together with a thread of story. The music is given with piano accompaniment. If a violin, oboe and violincello can be added to the piano the musical results will be finer; but the piano is satisfactory. Characters: St. John, Joseph, Mary, 3 Kings, 3 Shepherds, deaf and dumb boy, 4 to 6 children as leaders and 20 to 30 for Chorus. One-act with 2 scenes. Costume notes based on Rosselini's painting, "The Nativity." Production notes, including list of properties, costume sketches.

(Cont'd. column two)

IN THE LONG AGO, Pageant in honor of the Centennial of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. Written by Sister Mary John, O.S.F. Complete with stage directions.

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Any directors contemplating productions of RESPECTFULLY YOURS, DEAR RUTH, DEAR OCTUPUS, ALL AMERICAN BOY, EVER SINCE EVE or THE BIG HELP - 4 to 12 copies are available on loan from Service Bureau for cast use thanks to Sister Mary Venard of St. Paul High School, Worthington, Iowa and Sister Mary Immaculata, O.P., Caldwell College, Caldwell, New Jersey

IN BRIEF

In a recent lecture Walter Kerr of Catholic University defined art as "intellectual recreation achieved by the act of contemplation of an imitation of an aspect of nature."

A novel program design was used by Father Dubee for his production of OUR TOWN. Designed as a formal wedding invitation sent by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Webb of Our Town, it gave all pertinent production information.

Grace George won a third award this season for her portrayal of Mother General Hildebrand in THE VELVET GLOVE. It is the annual Delia Austrian Medal for distinguished performance. Miss George won earlier the Comedia Matinee Club medallion and the American Academy of Arts and Letters medal for good speech.

In a recent round table discussion on THE COCKTAIL PARTY, Dr. Frank X. Connolly, head of the Fordham English department, claimed that the play was primarily a brilliant comedy; that the diction of the drama was unostentatious and its main impact intellectual. He said, however, that the play could be approached on three levels; first, as a brilliant comedy of manners; secondly, on a psychiatric level, with the souls of the characters cleansed on a natural plan; thirdly, spiritual.

SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Please forward to office your summer mailing address so that the Mid-summer issue of the Calendar may be sent directly to you.

And may we suggest that requests for scripts and other pertinent office detail continue to be sent to the secretary? Calendar items only are to be sent to Mr. Emerich, Editor. A few script requests were delayed as personal mail addressed to him is put aside in his file and picked up only once a month when he gathers the accumulated material for the next issue of the Calendar.

Our sincere thanks to the following directors and their drama groups for contributions in the amount of \$50.00 during the past month:

Clarke College, Dubuque
Sister Mary Xavier, B.V.M.
College of St. Catherine
St. Paul, Minn. - Miss Mabel Frey
Mt. St. Joseph Academy
W. Hartford, Conn. - Sister M. Evelyn

We are still very concerned about the number of outstanding dues accounts as well as those on the 1949-50 issue of the Bulletin. Won't you please clear your books before leaving for the summer so we may clear ours?

Thanks to Mr. Felix Doherty we now have in our library a bound copy of THE KING'S SERVANT, Mr. Doherty's play about St. Thomas More. Paper back copies are to be published by Samuel French at a later date. The cast consists of 13 males, 4 females plus extra males (judges, jury). Three acts; time span 1529 - 1535. Production notes contain suggestions and diagrams for easy, unit-set staging - also complete description of characters, list of props for each scene, running time for each scene, act and total play; suggestions for lighting, costuming and music; procedure in striking each scene and setting up next. VARIETY reviewed its initial production by stating... "its theme is the perennial problem of man's right to have an opinion & not to be penalized for thinking it."

CATHOLIC CULTURE

(Excerpt from a statement by Mr. Joseph Rice at the First Pacific Southwest Regional Meeting of the CTC.)

Mr. Rice stated that a conference was one means of emphasizing the positive approach to Catholic culture and added that this was a Catholic conference because of the common interest all Catholics have in this positive approach which can be so beautifully expressed in drama. With Catholics this is a cradle-to-the-grave process as Catholic youth is exposed to the benefits of culture expressed through drama during his educational span from grade school through college, and eventually into community activities. Catholic theatre must not be limited to religious themes only, for properly, the Catholic attitude embraces the entire range of human experience. The important issue is that the standard of theatre fare be high and that it be true to its purpose of adding to the cultural development of the individual and the community. This has always been the intent of Catholic theatre which had its beginnings in the performances of the miracle and morality plays, - the participation in which were reflected the community activities of the priests, the artists, the artisans and the people. The place of Catholic theatre can be shown by an endless list of C's which might properly begin thusly:

C - for Catholic theatre
C - for Children's theatre
C - for College theatre
C - for Community theatre
C - for Commercial theatre
and which combined make for Culture.

(The following is from a statement made by Dr. J. Fenton McKenna of San Francisco State College at the same meeting.)

Dr. McKenna stated that this world of today of confusion, futility, despair, agnosticism, is represented in the professional theatre of madness, false philosophy, meaninglessness and sensuality and the picture of thousands of theatre workers not able to gain employment. But should we accede to this? Failure or success lies not in what the world reckons -- but in the survival of the truth. It is with the organizations whose leaders and followers (Cont'd. Page 6)

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST MEETING (Cont'd.)

gave a survey of the groundwork necessary for actual community theatre organization.

The evening program consisted of a one-act play, *SIX QUEENS OF HENRY*, by Marjorie Price, presented by Les Jongleurs de Notre Dame of the Immaculate Heart College of Los Angeles under the direction of Joseph F. Rice.

The second day's program included National Theatre Assembly discussions in the morning and afternoon panels on Opportunities in Acting and production of Classical Plays. The speakers included Ina Claire, Paul Speege, Vincent Harris, Elizabeth Berryhill, Mary L. Majeski, Robert Eley and Guy Montgomery.

Following the discussions there was presented a one-act play, *THE CATHEDRAL*, by George Lowther, under the direction of Yale Meyer of St. Mary's College and a radio show recording of *ROMEO AND JULIET* presented by St. Anthony's High School.

NORTH-CENTRAL MEET (Cont'd.)

productions. Later, at St. Michael's Field on the campus of St. Teresa's College all the guests witnessed the splendid Spring Pageant staged by the Junior Class.

After dinner at St. Mary's two one-act plays were presented; the first, an original by senior John McCall, the second, *MASTER PIERRE RATELIN*. Both plays were done in arena staging and were enthusiastically received.

Sister Annella of St. Scholastica College, due to a broadcast schedule was absent from the College Meet. An invitation, however, had been sent by Sister to the college directors inviting them to hold the fall meeting in Duluth, at St. Scholastica. The invitation was unanimously accepted by all representatives present. It is unfortunate that unavoidable engagements prevented Sister Annella and Miss Mabel Frey, College and University Chairman, from attending the meet.

BULLETIN! BULLETIN!

Because of the added interest in arena productions, Mr. Edgar L. Kloten, editor of the Bulletin is planning a special section devoted to this type of staging. Any member group which may have pictures of their productions are requested to send two glossy prints of your plays (5x7, 8x10, 7x11 preferred.) Please do not send cut or engraving. Indicate on back of photos the organization, play and name of author.

It is also requested that anyone having an original one-act play which may be of special interest to the other members send the play to the Bulletin editor for possible publication.

CATHOLIC CULTURE (Cont'd.)

refuse to traffic with the cheap and tawdry, where lies the actual building of a strong National Theatre. We are a part of that theatre. Our direction then, must be toward making the nature of our enterprise truthful, and full of integrity, and making it well known to the "general public." This must be accomplished thru each theatre group acting as a unit cell in a greater structure. The Catholic Theatre Conference, the American Educational Theatre Association are examples of the national structures for the strength of overall direction. Why the theatre? Dr. McKenna answered by stating that theatre means the comprehensive field of study which can be the most active philosophy and psychology laboratory it is possible to have. Man studying other men that he may better know them and himself; and by so doing, gaining a proper sense of proportion which is a true sense of creation involving a Creator and a creature. This is what the world needs and can get from theatre. And it should be done right now. Start now and add in doses of a day at a time your share of real belief in the strength of something which can shape man better. Couple this with active participation in an organization of right thinking people and join the main stream to bring national strength and recognition.

